



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Los Angeles, California

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

January 6, 1983

FRENTE NICARAGUENSE ANTI-COMUNISTA
MANUEL VALLE, CONSUL-GENERAL OF
NICARAGUA - VICTIM
PROTECTION OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS

B. APPROX [REDACTED] ~~1-17-1983~~ ~~Political~~ ~~Split~~
On August 16, 1982, [REDACTED] suspect in this matter, was interviewed at his residence and furnished the following information: ~~1-17-1983~~

[REDACTED] is a member of the "Frente Nicaraguense Democratico" (FND) (Nicaruan Democratic Force). He is the [REDACTED] military training.

[REDACTED] the FND consists of finding individuals who are against communism and who are discontent with the Nicaraguan Government. He discusses with them all the problems in relation to United States Immigration and if they have an illegal status in the United States, he urges them to solve the alien status. In addition, [REDACTED] find a job and give economic assistance in the process of doing so.

[REDACTED] has been [REDACTED] military training of the Nicaraguans in order to have them ready for action in the event the political situation in Nicaragua demands it.

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The FND began its military training in coordination with the Cuban "Alpha 66" group in Los Angeles, California which consists of Cubans who are preparing themselves militarily to fight against Fidel Castro and Communist Cuba.

At the early stages of their training with Alpha 66, the FND wanted to keep everything on a confidential basis. The Cubans brought in photographers with the pretext that they wanted to keep a record of the training, but soon enough the FND found themselves in the newspapers and on national television news. [REDACTED] advised that due to all the publicity they discontinued the military training with Alpha 66. It seemed to [REDACTED] that the Cubans wanted publicity for their own cause.

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EXCLUSION

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The FND was founded approximately a year and a half ago. There was a merger between the "Union Nicaguense Anti-Comunista" (UNAC) (Nicaragua Anti-Communist Union), the "15 de Septiembre" movement (September 15th movement), and the "Grupo de Pataqui" (Pataqui's Group).

The UNAC was based in Los Angeles, which in turn, was [redacted]. The "15 de Septiembre" group was based in Miami and was composed of all ex-military Nicaraguans headed by Nicaraguan ex-colonel Enrique Bermudez who was the military attache in Washington during Somoza's regime. The "15 de Septiembre" group named itself after the date of the independence of Nicaragua from Spain, on September 15, 1821.

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The "Grupo Pataqui" was founded [redacted] got all the wealthy Nicaraguans together to support the Nicaraguan movement.

[redacted] departed Nicaragua on December 2, 1979 to Spain. While in Spain, he learned that a contract to kill him had been put out and his former driver was to execute the contract. He then departed to Costa Rica where he was deported to El Salvador. In El Salvador he was given 30 days to depart and then he went to Guatemala. In Guatemala he was not given political asylum and then he went to Miami, Florida and later came to Los Angeles, California. [redacted] was a Colonel during the Somoza's regime in Nicaragua.

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[redacted] stated that [redacted] was a member of the FND directive. He has a Doctorate in Jurisprudence and during Somoza's regime, he was the [redacted] Anastacio Somoza.

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As a member of the President's staff in Nicaragua, [redacted] investigated [redacted] and knew him to be a person of great responsibility and trustworthy. [redacted] was [redacted] the Nicaraguan army and received his training in the School of the Americas, in the canal zone, by United States military personnel.

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Another member of the FND directive is [redacted] [redacted] does not have any known means of support or profession

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at the present time [redacted] does not trust [redacted] inasmuch as [redacted] is a former member of the "Frente Sandinista Para La Liberacion Nacional" (FSLN) (Sandinista Front for the National Liberation).

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It has been rumored that [redacted] for the FSLN and he has been under close scrutiny by the FND. [redacted] is in charge of the finances of the FND.

Another member of the FND directive is [redacted] [redacted] political matters and youth orientation. A fourth member has been (First Name Unknown) (FNU) [redacted] but has been inactive for the past few months. The last significant member of the directive is [redacted] Mobile Snack bar and is self-employed. [redacted] also works with the Youth Orientation Program of the FND.

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[redacted] believes that the threatening letter to the Nicaraguan consul might have originated from dissident Sandinistas who fought against Somoza and are against communism. Groups like the "Frente Nicarguense Sandinista" (FNS) headed by Eden Pastora, who is also known as "Comandante Zero". It is also possible that individuals who have worked for the consulate and are now against the Nicaraguan Regime, are also possible suspects of having sent such a threat in the mail.

[redacted] had no knowledge whatsoever of who might have sent the threatening letter to the Nicaraguan Consulate. He stated that he condemned such an act as he considered this to be an act of a coward. He indicated that such tactics are utilized by the terrorists and he is absolutely opposed to such actions.

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The FND is composed of law abiding citizens who want to be able to do something positive for the United States, i.e., work hard and pay their taxes, in order to be able to someday return to Nicaragua and establish a democratic government, reinstituting all the constitutional rights to all its citizens as it is in the United States.

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On August 23, 1982, [redacted] appeared at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Los Angeles Office at which time he voluntarily submitted himself for major case fingerprinting. The fingerprints were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for comparision with latent fingerprints developed from the original threatening letter.

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On August 23, 1982, the FBI Laboratory, Latent Fingerprint Section reported that the latent fingerprints developed from the threatening letter were not identified with the submitted fingerprints of [redacted]

[redacted]
On August 25, 1982, the FBI Laboratory, Document Examination and Translation Sections, reported that the typewritten document received by Special Agent (SA) [redacted] resembles laboratory standards for a style manufactured by Brother Industries of Japan. This type is found in many brands of typewriters including Brother, Sears, K-Mart, Montgomery Ward Signature, Wizard and Webster.

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The following is a translation of the above letter:

Nicaraguan Democratic Force
(FDN)

"Three years after the great betrayal, the people of Nicaragua are raising their voices in protest before the infamous oppression which they are being subjected to by the bloodthirsty communist regime and its "internationalist" supporters.

"The patriots of the FDN, following the example of Sandino, are offering their generous blood on the altars of liberty and independence of our country."

"On July 19, the communists celebrate "The triumph", the betrayal of a valient people handed over to Soviet imperialism which its school of terror and death."

The FDN, the political - military arm of the Nicaraguans, invites all fellow citizens and brothers of the World, so that united in a single democratic effort we will

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participate in the "great march of solidarity with the captive people of Nicaragua", which is to unfold July 19 (day of betrayal) opposite the badly named Nicaragua House located at 2121 W. Pico Blvd."

"The meeting place is the intersection of Pico and Alvarado Streets in Los Angeles at 6:00 pm."

"Only unity will be able to give us victory."

"Long live the valient ones who fight in the heart of our mountains."

"The countersign is: Death to communism

Nicaraguan Democratic Force
(FDN)
P.O. Box 18A302
Los Angeles, Ca. 90018

On August 30, 1982, T-1 furnished the FBI Los Angeles with a typewritten communication entitled: "Comunicado de la Junta Politica de la Fuerza Democratica Nicaraguense" (FDN) (Comunique of the Political Junta of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force), signed by [redacted]
Aristides Sanchez Herdocia and [redacted]

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T-1 advised that during the demonstration carried out by the FDN on July 19, 1982, in front of Casa Nicaragua, 2121 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. They were distributing the above communique. This letter or communique was forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for comparison purposes.

On September 2, 1982, the following information was received from Special Agent [redacted] FBI San Francisco, California. An article that appeared in the San Francisco Examiner as of August 5, 1982, contained the following information:

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Title: Contras: Those who would undo the revolution.

Los Angeles. [redacted] started growing a beard soon after fleeing Nicaragua. He vowed not to cut it off until the day he returned.

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The beard is now three years old and two feet long.

[redacted] a former Nicaraguan military official says he is training about 300 men in the Los Angeles area for the day when Nicaragua falls anew.

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A soft-spoken man with gracious manners, [redacted] is a rebel against rebellion, a zealot in a sharply divided and occasionally frivolous movement with one objective: Reverse the course of Sandinista rule in Nicaragua.

It is a diverse group, including the dashing "Commander Zero", Eden Pastora, who help rout dictator Anastacio Somoza, leading a successful 1978 assault on the National Palace.

Now he has turned against his former comrades, the ruling Sandinista "Traitors", he calls them. Those who would overthrow the revolution also include [redacted]
[redacted] known in counter-revolutionary circles as [redacted] for his bright ideas.

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One of them, which landed him in a United States Federal Prison, was to launch a bazooka attack on a Polish freighter in the Miami harbor.

"Ships trading with Cuba" he said.

He belongs to the ultra-rightist Interamerican Defense Force, an organization that has even calculated the cost of guns and propaganda campaign to "liberate" Nicaragua.

The IDF says it can get the job done for \$236,183,150 and bets that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) will pick up 90 percent of the tab.

Some of the dissidents are former allies of Somoza - "Somocistas" - who want to resurrect the right-wing rule that ended in 1979, when the leftist Sandinistas assumed control. Others are Indian leaders who, previously have been imprisoned by the government, and there is a growing number of disaffected Sandinistas.

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There's no revolution without a counter-revolution," says [redacted] a spokesman for the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington. "It happens everywhere. People cannot let it go without trying to undo it.

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With the Sandinistas in control of Nicaragua, the "contras", as they are known, would seem to have dim hope of success, despite what the regime describes as growing border clashes with groups made up primarily of former Somoza National Guardsmen.

Badly split philosophically, the dissident groups cannot boast of big numbers. The largest is the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), which claims a membership of 7,000. A United States official in Honduras estimates that there are about 6,000 contras on Honduran soil.

"The somocistas dont have a chance because no one in Nicaragua wants to return to the past, and the others dont appear to have the strength to overthrow a government with the biggest army in Central America", said a State Department Official who asked not to be identified.

In contrast for most-likely-to-succeed among the dissidents, the favorite would be the 45 year old Pastora. As the State Department Official put it, "He is the biggest source of worry for the Sandinistas" because he "commands a lot of respect in Nicaragua".

When the Sandinistas ousted Somoza, Pastora became deputy defense minister and national leader of the militia. Then, late last year, he suddenly went into exile.

Reappearing in Costa Rica in April, he accused the government of becoming totalitarian and aligning itself with Soviet-bloc countries.

Vowing continued loyalty to the original Sandinista goals of a democratic, non-aligned government in Nicaragua, Pastora has formed the Sandino Revolutionary Front (PRS) (Frente Revolucionario/Sandinista).

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The organization - like the Sandinista movement, named after a Nicaraguan guerrilla of the 1920's and 30's has the support of two former government junta members also in exile, [redacted] and Arturo Cruz.

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Although vowing in Costa Rica to oust the Sandinistas "at gunpoint" if necessary, Pastora is now said through associates to believe that Nicaragua's deteriorating economy will eventually wreck the government.

In an interview, [redacted] another former Sandinista guerrilla who now works with Pastora, said the organization is counting on an insurrection from within Nicaragua.

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"What Eden says is that if a war is necessary, so be it", said [redacted] in Costa Rica. "But it wouldn't be from Costa Rica but within Nicaragua."

Pastora is said to be training a force estimated at 1,000 in Costa Rica, although the new Costa Rican government is officially against such activities and has sent security forces to close down contra camps along the border with Nicaragua.

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In 1980, Fernando and [redacted], who are brothers, formed the Nicaraguan Democratic Union (UDN) (Union Democratica Nicarguense), another group composed of disillusioned Sandinistas. Both fought in the war.

It has an armed branch, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua, and reportedly has 500 to 1,000 supporters in Costa Rica.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Front, with which the bearded [redacted] is affiliated, has emerged in recent months as a leading contra group.

The front is lead by [redacted]

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"None of the three members had anything to do with the former regime," [redacted] said in an interview. [redacted] and myself fought strongly against Somoza."

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The front, which has had operations in Honduras, is well regarded by United States Diplomats in Tequicigalpa because its leadership is not tainted by ties to the former government.

If the front were to seize power, "it wouldn't be to the right," said a U.S. official.

[redacted] claims that between September and June, the front established 15 guerilla camps on Nicaragua's east coast.

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[redacted] said in an interview, "All (our people) are in Nicaragua now; not in Miami, not Honduras, not Costa Rica."

Two weeks ago, guerillas from the front attacked the town of San Francisco del norte in western Nicaragua and held it for six hours [redacted] said.

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He said his guerillas killed 35 Sandinista soldiers while losing four of their own. The Sandinistas claimed they lost 14 soliders and accused the guerillas of otrocities, which [redacted] denied.

"We captured 230 weapons, including Czek PZ's, which are a very bad semi-automatic rifle. All our light artillery has been captured.

"Other weapons have been bought on the black market - not only in Florida, but also in California. We began with hunting weapons but the situation has changed significantly.

"There are four or five countries that are helping (his group). Don't ask me which ones," [redacted] said. But he noted "All are in Latin America."

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The group is predominantly civilian, [redacted] said, and is open "to all Nicaraguans willing to make the fight against communism."

Although [redacted] maintains that "criminals" under the Somoza or Sandinista regimes are not welcome, the front does include such groups as the 15th of September Legion (named after Central America's independence day), a far-right group made up of ex-guardsmen, and the Nicaraguan Liberation Army, composed of Somoza loyalists.

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It also includes Misuratas, an organization of Miskito Indians [redacted] Imprisoned in 1981 with 33 other Miskitos on charges of fostering separatism among the Indians on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast [redacted] fled to Honduras when released.

He has denounced the Sandinistas for killing Miskitos during a resettlement project ostensibly aimed at moving the Indians from the scene of border skirmishes. Ten-thousand Miskitos reportedly chose to flee to Honduras rather than to move to the interior.

[redacted] Interamerican Defense Force is made up of Cubans, Nicaraguans and others who have fled leftist regimes. The organization runs widely publicized anti-revolutionary camps in Florida.

According to [redacted] many of the defense force's fighters have been trained in Argentina and Israel and about 800 were getting on the job training fighting guerrillas in El Salvador.

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The \$236 million budget aimed at sinking the Sandinistas was partly - [redacted] work. The cost of missiles, helicopters, office space, "sonic grenades that destroy the brain" - it's all in there, he said in an interview.

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He even figured the price of publicizing the cause \$570,000 per month. Newsweek, for instance, was budgeted for \$20,000 per month, while Time was down for \$30,000.

"It's more liberal," said a group spokesman.

[redacted] said that the Pastora group has had discussions with other organizations in an effort, "to evaluate who are true revolutionaries and Sandinistas," but that there would be no pacts with Somoza loyalists.

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"We don't make pacts with the devil," he said.

- End of Newspaper Article -

On September 27, 1982, the FBI Laboratory advised that it had been determined that the letter and envelope originally submitted were produced with a different typewriter from that used to produce the document received by SA [redacted] described as an "invitation to a demonstration" and the other document described as a "comunique". That is three different typewriters were used to prepare the three different documents.

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On October 13, 1982, the FBI Laboratory reported that the latent fingerprints of [redacted] [redacted] were not identified with the previously submitted specimens.

On December 29, 1982, T-1 furnished the following information:

On November 21, 1982, a meeting of several Nicaraguan right wing organizations held a meeting at the Great Lodge of the State of Aztlan located at 830 South Hicks Street, East Los Angeles, California, at which time it was unanimously voted to create a new anti-Sandinista Revolutionary group named "Asociacion Revolucionaria Democratica" (ARDE) (Revolutionary Democratic Association).

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The groups that were represented during this voting was as follows:

1. ~~Movimiento Democratico Nicaraguense (MDN)~~
2. ~~Frente Revolucionario Sandinista (FRS)~~
3. ~~Union Democratica Nicaraquense (UDN)~~
4. ~~Fuerza Armada Revolucionaria Nicaraguense (FARN)~~
5. ~~Misurasata~~

T-1 advised that the above new group ARDE will be the coordinating committee for all activities of above groups. T-1 advise that there was no other information available at this time, but as soon any new information was learned of this new group, that it will be immediately disseminated to the FBI.